

2020 Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting  
Teleconference, Richland, WA, April 23 – 24, 2020



## Research and Operation in FY2021

Sergei Y. Tolmachev, USTUR Director  
[stolmachev@wsu.edu](mailto:stolmachev@wsu.edu)

Research Professor  
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Washington State University

1845 Terminal Drive, Suite 201, Richland, WA 99354  
[www.ustur.wsu.edu](http://www.ustur.wsu.edu)

*“Learning from Plutonium and Uranium Workers”*



College of  
Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



# FY2021: USTUR at Glance

- Fiscal year 2021 (FY2021): 4/1/2020 – 3/31/2021
- FY2021 DOE funding: \$1,200,000
- Operated by: Washington State University, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Operated under: Central DOE IRB #WASU-68-50181 (9/11/2020)
- Supported full-time equivalent (FTE)
  - ✓ Faculty and staff: 6.5
  - ✓ Temporary appointment: 1.0





# Organization Structure and Personnel



WSU College of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Prof. Kathryn E. Meier, PhD  
*Associate Dean*

Scientific Advisory Committee  
Roger McClellan, Toxicology, Chair  
Janet Benson (incoming), Toxicology  
Luiz Bertelli, Health Physics  
Heather Hoffman, Epidemiology  
Timothy Ledbetter, Ethics  
Thomas Rucker, Radiochemistry  
Arthur "Bill" Stange, Occupational Health



Administration & Finances  
Margo D. Bedell, AAS  
*Program Specialist II*

USTUR Research Center  
Sergei Y. Tolmachev, PhD  
Director, Principal Investigator  
*Research Professor*



— Anthony E. Riddell, MPhil, MSRP<sup>†</sup> *Adjunct Faculty*  
— Daniel J. Strom, PhD, CHP<sup>‡</sup> *Adjunct Faculty*

Operation/Research/Academics  
Stacey L. McComish, MS  
*Associate in Research*  
Maia Avtandilashvili, PhD  
*Assistant Research Professor*  
Martin Šeňl, PhD  
*Post-doctoral Researcher*

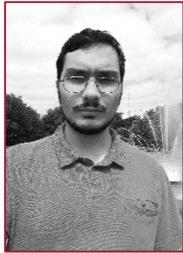
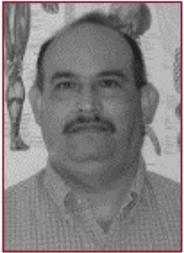
National Human Radiobiological  
Tissue Repository (NHRTR)  
Florencio T. Martinez, ASCP  
<sup>‡</sup> *Med. Tech., Prosector*  
Eric L. Kiesel, MD, PhD  
<sup>‡</sup> *Consultant Forensic Pathologist*

Radiochemistry Laboratory  
Sergei Y. Tolmachev, PhD  
*Principal Radiochemist*  
George Tabatadze, PhD  
*Assistant Research Professor*  
Elizabeth M. Thomas, BS  
*Laboratory Technician II*



— Alex Tabatadze, MS<sup>‡</sup> *Programming*  
— Minh Pham, BS<sup>‡</sup> *IT Support*  
— Mariya Tolmachova, MA<sup>‡</sup> *Editor*

Extramural Projects and  
Collaborations  
USTUR/NHRTR 'Work for Others'  
(Externally Funded)



† - Non-paid

‡ - Part-time/Contractor





# Specific Aims

- Manage and operate the Registries
- Conduct scientific research
- Demonstrate and promote broader use and application of USTUR research, data, and materials





# Management and Operation

- Communicate with Registrants and next-of-kin
- Accept Registrant donations
- Operate the National Human Radiobiological Tissue Repository (NHRTR)
- Complete radiochemical analysis of tissues
- Develop and populate USTUR information systems





# Operational Tasks

## Health Physics database

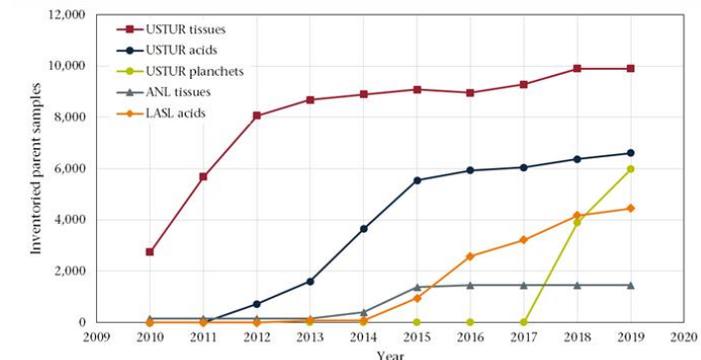
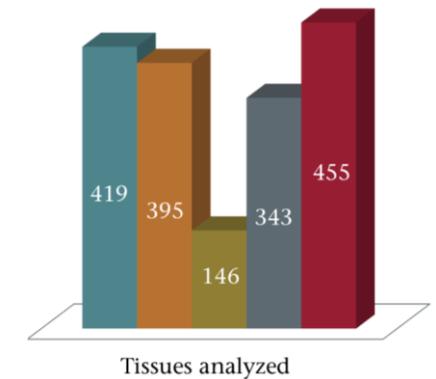
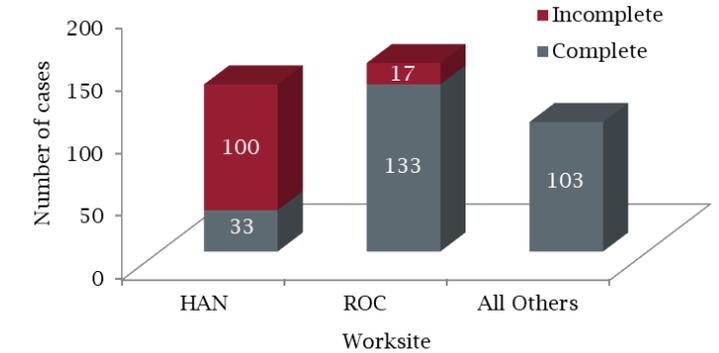
- All worksites except Hanford (2020)
- All cases (2028)

## Radiochemistry analysis and database

- Analyses of remaining partial bodies (2020 – 2021)
- Database harmonization (2021)
- Analyses of all cases (2029)

## NHRTR inventory

- LANL acid solutions (2022)
- RDP frozen tissues (2024 – 2029)
- RDP other materials (2029 and beyond)





# Radiochemistry Group Tasks

- Publish Data Quality Objectives (DQO) document
- Complete protocol for urine collection from leaving Registrants
- Reduce tissue sample backlog: *Complete all partial-body cases*
- Populate and harmonize Radiochemistry database with other USTUR databases
- Install new (plastic) laboratory fume hood(s) and ventilation system

Drying &  
Ashing

Digestion &  
Dissolution

Actinide  
separation

$\alpha$ -source  
preparation

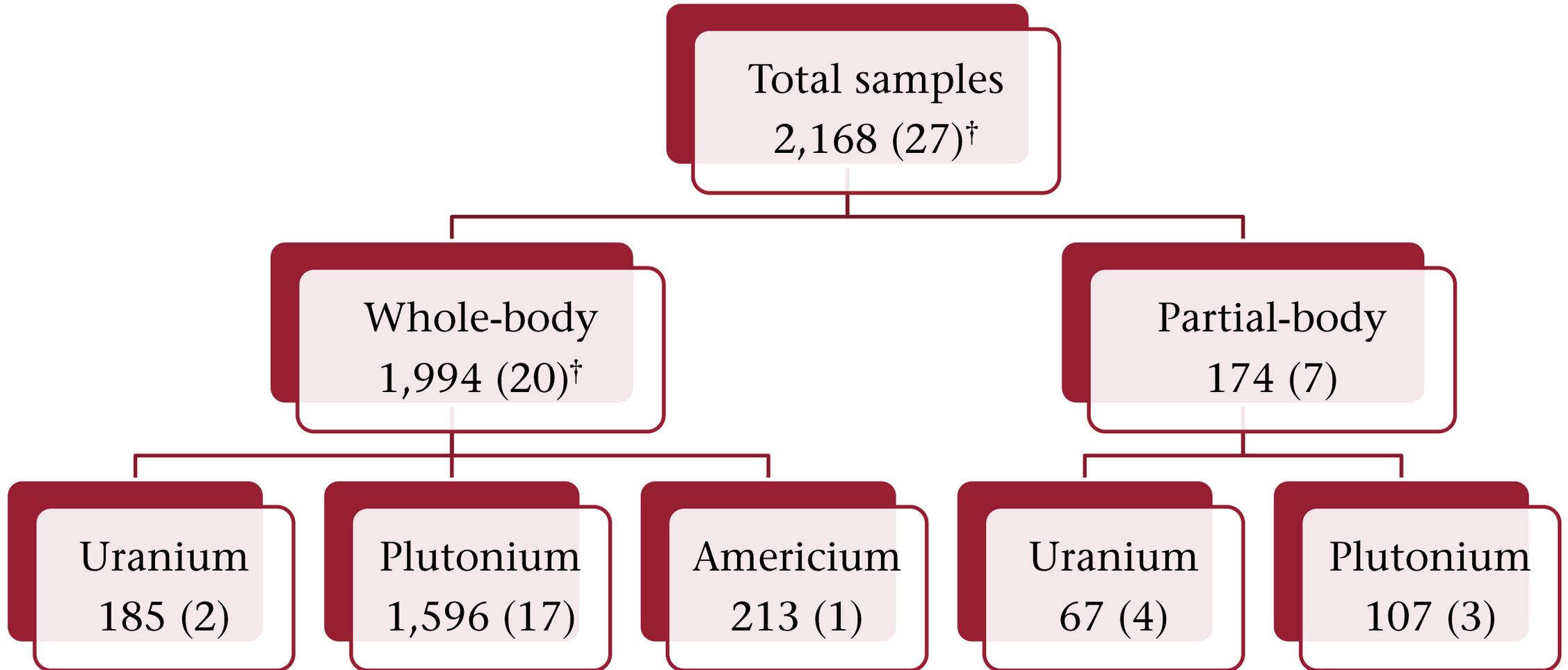
Actinide  
measurement

USTUR tissue radiochemical analysis protocol





# Tissue Sample Backlog

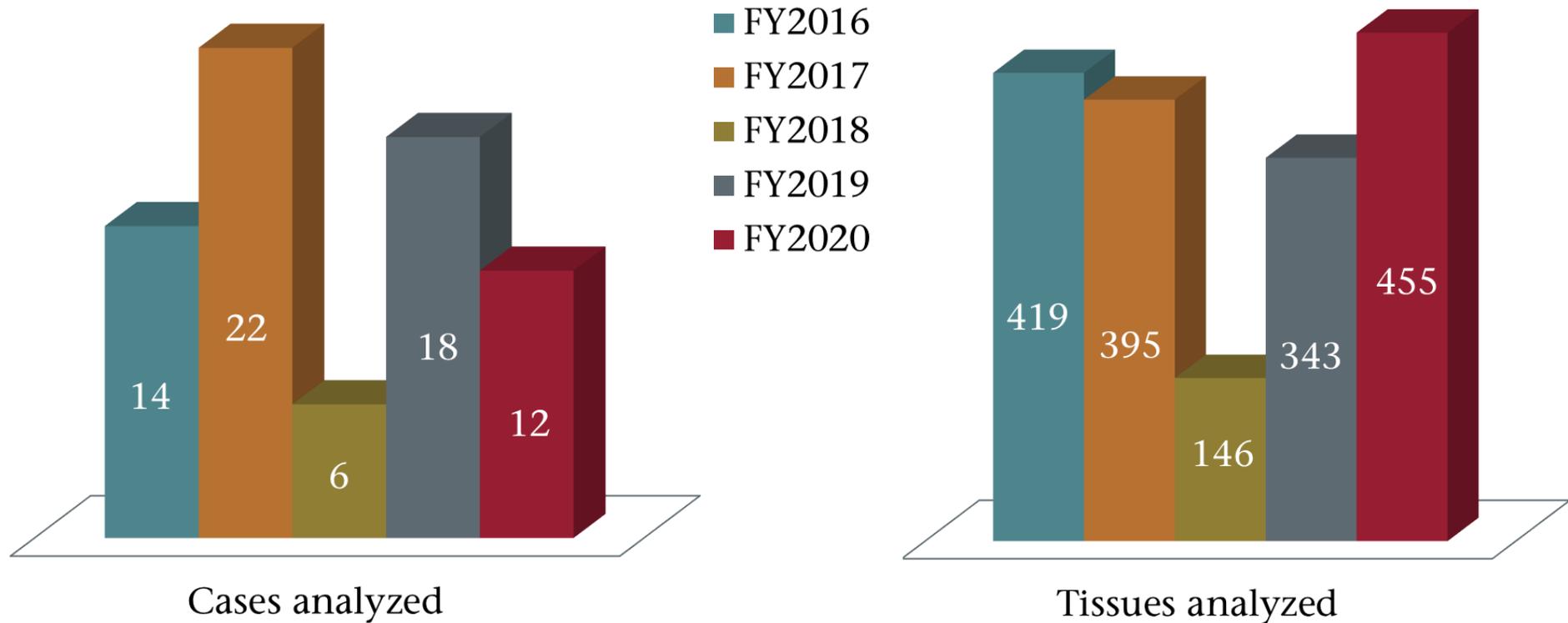


† - excluding two Thorotrast cases





# Radiochemical Analysis Throughput





# Internal Research Projects

- Evaluating uncertainty in radiation dose assessment: *liver and skeleton*
- Actinides in the skeleton:  $C_{bone}/C_{skel}$  *bone scaling factor*
- 'Systemic' actinides partitioning between liver and skeleton
- Beryllium retention, distribution, and biokinetics in human body
- Long-term retention, distribution, and biokinetics of enriched uranium in a female donor





# New Collaboration: *Q-band Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Dosimetry*

- Dr. Alexander Romanyukha: Naval Dosimetry Center, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
- PhD project: *Electron paramagnetic resonance dosimetry in tooth enamel from former nuclear workers*
- Q-band EPR benefit: 2–4 mg sample size
- USTUR support: 39 (molar and pre-molar) teeth from ten individuals
- Pulverized materials will be return to the USTUR



## Q-BAND EPR BIODOSIMETRY IN TOOTH ENAMEL MICROSAMPLES: FEASIBILITY TEST AND COMPARISON WITH X-BAND

A. Romanyukha,<sup>\*†</sup> C. A. Mitchell,<sup>\*</sup> D. A. Schauer,<sup>‡</sup> L. Romanyukha,<sup>\*</sup>  
and H. M. Swartz<sup>\*‡</sup>

Radiat Environ Biophys  
DOI 10.1007/s00411-013-0511-8

ORIGINAL PAPER

**Q-band electron paramagnetic resonance dosimetry in tooth enamel: biopsy procedure and determination of dose detection limit**

Alex Romanyukha · François Trompier ·  
Ricardo A. Reyes





# DOE Russian Health Studies Program



- US/Russian bi-national agreement: 1994
  - Conducted under: the Joint Coordinating Committee for Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER)
  - Lead agencies: Department of Energy and Federal Medical Biological Agency
- 
- DOE Program Manager: **Joey Y Zhou**, effective April 1, 2020
  - **Project 2.4: *Mayak Worker Dosimetry*** (US PI – Bruce Napier, PNNL)
  - **Project 2.8: *Mayak Worker Tissue Repository*** (US PI – Christopher Loffredo, Georgetown University)





# Collaboration with Southern Urals Biophysics Institute

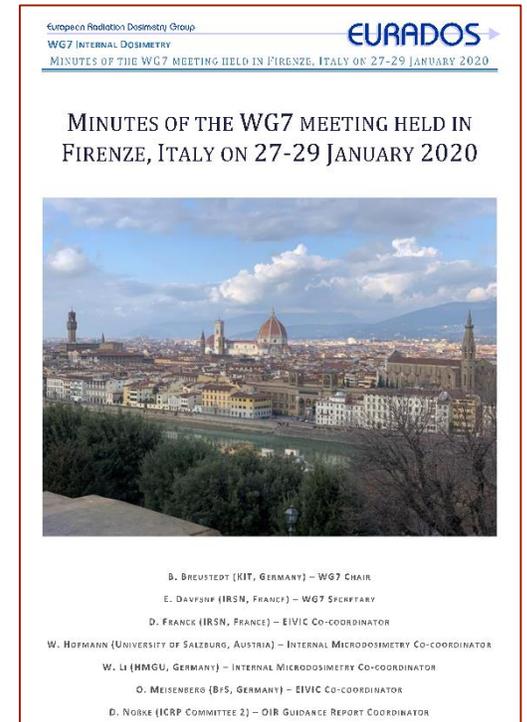
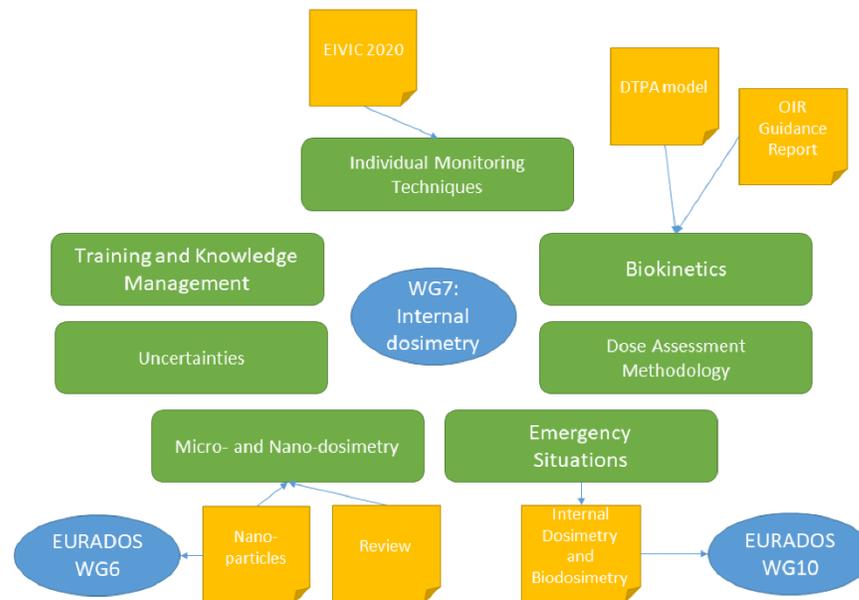
- Interaction/collaboration since 1995
- Topics: radiochemistry and actinide dosimetry
- Joint publications (1996–2002; 2017–2019): 16
  - ✓ Conference abstracts: 3
  - ✓ Conference proceeding papers: 2
  - ✓ Journal manuscripts: 11
- Site visits and exchange
- On-site ‘training’ (radiochemistry)
- Russian Human Radiobiological Tissue Repository  
<http://www.rhtr.subi.su>





# USTUR – EURADOS Research Topics

- Biological dosimetry for internal exposure: *on-going*
- Modeling DTPA decorporation therapy: *reborn*
- Nano- and microdosimetry: *new*
- Wound monitoring and dose assessment: *new*
- Dosimetry protocol for epidemiological studies: *new*





# Modeling $^{241}\text{Am}$ Decorporation: *Reborn*

## Brief history

- 2009 EURADOS WG7 meeting (Karlsruhe, Germany): Dr. A. C. James
- 2011 Sabbatical at the USTUR: Dr. Bastian Breustedt (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)
- 2019 Publication: Breustedt et al. USTUR Case 0846: Modeling americium biokinetics after intensive decorporation therapy. *Health Physics* 117(2): 168–178.



## PhD project

- Initial discussion: 2016
- Funding: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (2020)
- Project duration: 2020–2023
- One-week visit to the USTUR: 2021
- One-month stay at the USTUR: 2021 and 2022





# Collaborative Research Network



National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements



Public Health England



Northwestern University



UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY



一般財団法人 九州環境管理協会





# Professional Service

- National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP)
  - ✓ Program Area Committee 6: *Radiation Measurements and Dosimetry*
  - ✓ Scientific Committee 6-12: *Brain Dosimetry for Internally Deposited Radionuclides*
  - ✓ Sub-committee of the Council Committee 2: *Radio- and Nuclear Chemistry*
- Health Physics Society: *International Collaboration Committee*
- Columbia Chapter of Health Physics Society: *Executive Council*
- Herbert M Parker Foundation: *Board of Trustees*
- Herbert M Parker Symposium: *Organizing Committee*
- Washington State University: *Radiation Safety Committee*
- Austin Biometrics and Biostatistics: *Editorial Board*
- Japanese Journal of Health Physics: *Editorial Board*





# Upcoming Publications

- Giussani A, Lopez MA, Romm H, Testa A, Ainsbury EA, Degteva M, Della Monaca S, Etherington G, Fattibene P, Güclu I, Jaworska A, Lloyd DC, Malátová I, **McComish S**, Melo D, Osko J, Rojo A, Roch-Lefevre S, Shishkina E, Sotnik N, **Tolmachev S**, Wieser A, Woda C, Youngman M. EURADOS review of retrospective dosimetry techniques for internal exposures to ionising radiation and their applications. *Radiation and Environmental Biophysics*; **2020** (Accepted)
- Poudel D, **Avtandilashvili M**, Bertelli L, Klumpp J, **Tolmachev SY**. Long-term retention of plutonium in the respiratory tracts of two acutely-exposed workers: Estimation of bound fraction. *Health Physics*; **2020** (Submitted)





# Upcoming (?) Conference Presentations

Conferences: 5

- National: 3
- International: 2

Presentations: 14

- Invited: 3
- Podium: 7
- Poster: 4





# Invited Presentations

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society, National Harbor, Maryland, July 5 – 9, 2020

Technical Session: The Department of Energy Domestic and International Health Studies Programs

- Tolmachev SY, Ph.D. Transuranium and Plutonium Registries: 2010 – 2020 research accomplishments and collaborative efforts
- Zhou JY and Šerif M, et al. Uncertainties in radiation dose assessment for internally deposited plutonium in support of radiation epidemiology
- Avtandilashvili M, et al. Beryllium in the issues of former nuclear workers

**CANCELLED!**





# Podium Presentations (I)

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society, National Harbor, Maryland, July 5 – 9, 2020

- Strom DJ. Internal dosimetry over the ages
- Strom DJ, et al. Internal dosimetry software over the ages
- Poudel D, et al. Long-term retention of plutonium in the respiratory tracts of two acutely-exposed workers

**CANCELLED!**





## Podium Presentations (II)

5<sup>th</sup> European Radiation Protection Week 2020 (ERPW2020), Estoril, Portugal, September 28 – October 2, 2020

- Šefl M, et al. Plutonium biokinetics in human body from inhalation of soluble compound
- Avtandilashvili M, Tolmachev SY. Forty-eight-year follow-up of a female worker exposed to highly enriched uranium via chronic and acute inhalation

15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA15), Seoul, South Korea, January 18 – 22, 2021

- Zhou JY, et al. 50 years of the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries: Key contributions, influence and impact on radiation protection
- Tolmachev SY, et al. Actinide elements in the human brain: 50-year experience at the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries



# Poster Presentations

66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Radiation Research Society, Big Island, Hawaii, USA, October 18 – 21, 2020

- Šefl M, et al. Uncertainty analysis on organ doses after exposure to soluble plutonium material
- Tolmachev SY, Avtandilashvili M. Long-term retention and distribution of highly enriched uranium in occupationally exposed female
- Avtandilashvili M, Tolmachev SY. Biokinetics of highly enriched uranium in a female nuclear worker after complex inhalation exposure

2020 Fall American Chemical Society Meeting, San Francisco, California, USA, August 16 – 20, 2020

- Wegge D, et al. ICP-MS analysis of plutonium and other actinides in brain tissue of occupationally exposed individual





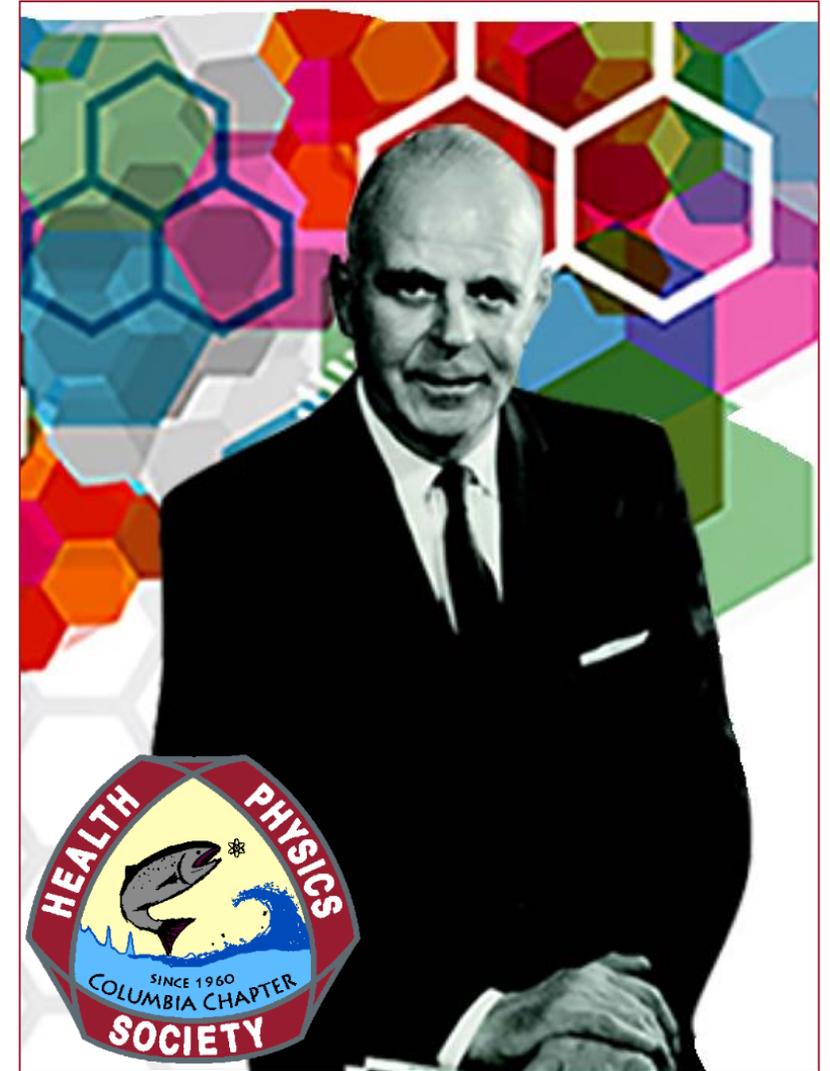
# Publications in Preparation

- Avtandilashvili M, Tolmachev SY. *Forty-eight-year follow-up of a female worker exposed to highly enriched uranium via chronic and acute inhalation*
- Šefl M, Avtandilashvili M, Tolmachev SY. *Plutonium biokinetics in human body from inhalation of soluble compound*
- Strom DJ, Dumit S, Avtandilashvili M, McComish SL, Tabatadze G, Tolmachev SY. *Cylindrical representations of recycling biokinetic models*
- Tolmachev SY, Avtandilashvili M. *Long-term retention and distribution of highly enriched uranium in occupationally exposed female*
- Tolmachev SY, Avtandilashvili M, Brockman JD, Lariviere D, Momoshima N. *Beryllium in the tissues of occupationally exposed individuals: application to biokinetics*

# Herbert M. Parker Memorial Symposium 2021

- Idea: Northwest regional (Washington, Oregon, Idaho) Health Physics meeting
- Date: April 9 – 10, 2021, Tri Cities, WA
- Topic: Radiation Protection – The Next Generation

*The symposium will bring young professionals and students together with experienced professionals in radiation protection and related fields to showcase the profession, share knowledge, experience, and cutting-edge research, and actively connect people with opportunities.*





Thank you!

